

ABSTRACT

5 Techniques for controlling and managing network access are
used to enable a wireless communication device to selectively
communicate with several wireless networks. A portable
communication device constructed according to the invention can
10 communicate with different networks as the device is moved
through the areas of coverage supported by the different
networks. As a result, the device can take advantage of services
provided by a particular network when the device is within the
15 area of coverage provided by that network. Thus, the device can
selectively switch to networks that provide, for example, high
speed Internet access, different quality of service, low cost
service and/or different services (e.g., voice, data, multimedia,
20 etc.). A multi-mode controller in the device may be used to
alternately poll different networks to determine whether the
device is within the area of coverage of a network and to
25 selectively establish communications with those networks.

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